

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the paragraph (Abstract) beginning at page 27, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

ABSTRACT

A discharge valve mechanism has a plurality of discharge openings. The discharge openings are placed in an open or closed state by a plate-like valve element. Each of the discharge openings is formed at a respective location between a base end side and a leading end side of the valve element. The number of discharge openings to be placed in the open state is varied depending on the pressure and the flow rate of gas refrigerant discharged from a compression chamber. ~~Accordingly, the occurrence of overcompression losses at the time of controlling of the variable displacement of a compressor is inhibited during the operation from small to large displacement. This achieves improvements in compressor operating efficiency.~~